

Virginia Charter Boat Association (VCBA)
267 Carefree Lane
Kilmarnock, Virginia 22482

Dear Sonya Davis,

The Board of Directors of the VCBA has unanimously voted to support the following two Virginia Marine Resources Projects: The Virginia Marine Sportfish Collection Project and the SAS licensing and training for VMRC technical staff project.

We strongly recommend that Virginia Recreational Fishing Development funds be used for these two projects at the level of funding requested by the VMRC.

Concerning the Collection project VCBA feels that it is extremely important to study sportfish harvest data. VCBA, representing over 100 Virginia charterboat Captains, strongly supports improving the state's ability to measure our sports fishery. We believe that continuing to improve the collection of scientific data to better manage the various sport fisheries is critical to sustaining our sports fishery.

Concerning licensing and training of VMRC technical staff, VCBA understands the critical importance of the use of statistical data in managing Virginia's fisheries. Improving the VMRC staff's ability to analyze current databases and Marine Recreational Fishery Statistical Survey datasets will enable VMRC staff to more quickly develop fisheries management plans that are consistent with the data.

The VCBA represents over 100 Virginia Charterboat Captains. We support all efforts to sustain and improve Virginia's various sport fisheries and to receive appropriate allocations consistent with sound scientific fisheries management.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Reed
Secretary, Virginia Charter Boat Association